

## Issue Brief – Medication Costs

UTAH STATE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

NUMBER DHS-07-15

### MEDICATION COSTS

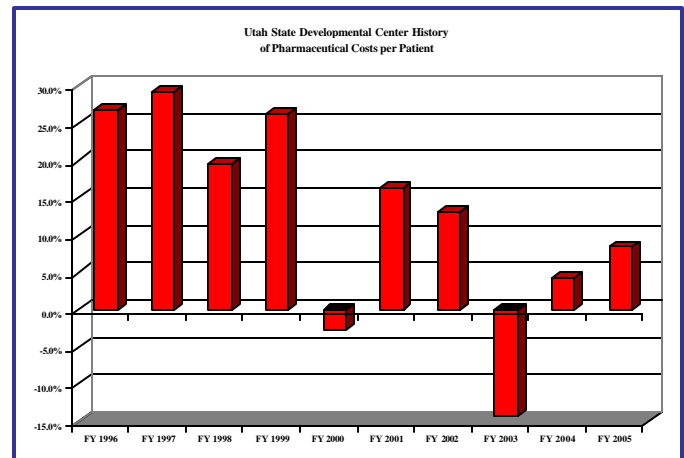
The Utah State Developmental Center (USDC) has experienced increased costs associated with medications. The USDC is requesting an appropriation of \$114,000 with \$32,300 from General Funds and \$81,700 from federal Medicaid funds.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the USDC is to provide cost effective drug therapy for the management of chronic medical conditions of their patients.

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The residents at the USDC have multiple medical diagnoses which often require drug intervention. More than half of the population has a dual diagnoses of mental illness and mental retardation. In addition, more than half have epilepsy. USDC uses the most current, well researched pharmaceuticals. The older prescriptions like Haladon or Dilantin have proven less effective in treating seizures or mental disorders than drugs like Serquel or Lamictal. However, while Serquel and Lamictal are more successful in reducing seizures and behavior aggression, they are also about 11 times more expensive than the older drugs. In FY 2000, USDC moved toward generic drugs where possible to help alleviate the rising cost in drugs. USDC estimates the cost per patient would have been almost double if they had not changed to generic drugs. The graph to the right shows the history of pharmaceuticals for the Developmental Center:



### RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee may want to prioritize this request for funding of \$114,000 with \$32,300 from General Funds and \$81,700 from Medicaid funds to cover the increase cost of medications at the Utah State Developmental Center.